

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 OMB-01 SR-02 ORM-03

DRC-01 /185 W

----- 053036

R 211521Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5321

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS BEIRUT 13398

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINN, LE, XF

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF BEIRUT WEEKLY PRESS

1. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES ARTICLES APPEARING IN WEEKLY BEIRUT PRESS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO DEPT AND ADDRESSEE POSTS.

2. LEFTIST, PRO-CHINESE AD DUSTOUR (NOV 19) CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT OF SYRIAN PARLIAMENT HALABI, WHO WARNED THAT ANY STALLING BY ISRAEL OVER TOTAL IMPLEMENTATION OF SC RESOLUTIONS 338 AND 242 WOULD LEAD TO RENEWED HOSTILITIES. MAKING CLEAR THAT SARG CONTINUES ATTACH MAXIMUM IMPORTANCE TO KEEPING IN STEP WITH EGYPT, HALABI STATED THAT "ALTHOUGH CEASEFIRE DECISION WAS TAKEN WITHOUT OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS POINT WAS CLARIFIED DURING MEETING
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BETWEEN PRESIDENTS ASSAD AND SADAT IN KUWAIT". HE ADMITTED

SADAT'S DECISION TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH US HAD COME AS SURPRISE TO SARG "AND MIGHT SEEM STRANGE", BUT HE DISMISSED THIS AS "MINOR DETAIL" IN COMPARISON TO SOLID SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN DETERMINATION TO RECOVER OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND "ACHIEVE ALL OUR RIGHTS". NEVERTHELESS, HALABI SAID, "SHOULD A DEVIATION TAKE PLACE--GOD FORBID--THEN DESPITE OUR ADHERENCE TO UNION OF RANKS

(WITH EGYPT)...WE WILL BE QUITE FRANK AT FORTHCOMING ALGIERS SUMMIT MEETING AND WILL CHECK ANY ATTEMPT TO DEFLECT US FROM OUR STRATEGIC GOALS. DESPITE OUR POSITIVE STAND IN DEALING WITH BROTHERS AND FRIENDS, WE WILL NOT COMPROMISE ON BASIC ISSUES AND MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE". ASKED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT SYRIA HAD RECEIVED ONE BILLION DOLLARS IN SAUDI AID, HALABI SAID THIS FIGURE NOT CORRECT , BUT THAT SARG HAD DELIBERATELY REFRAINED FROM DENYING SUCH STORIES IN ORDER AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO SAG. SAUDI AID TO DATE, HE NOTED, HAS TOTALED ONLY DOLS 100 MILLION, RECEIVED IN TWO EQUAL INSTALLMENTS .

3. NEW INDEPENDENT WEEKLY AD DIYAR (NOV 17) PRINTED INTERVIEW WITH IRAQI FONMIN 'ABD AL BAKI, WHO SAID IRAQI FORCES HAD ENTERED OCTOBER WAR ON UNDERSTANDING IT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN CONTINUOUS "WAR OF LIBERATION". ADDED THAT GOI WOULD KEEP OUT OF FUTURE ME WARS UNLESS IT CONVINCED THEY WERE FOR KEEPS. RE ALGIERS SUMMIT, 'ABD AL BAKI STATED GI WOULD NOT ATTEND UNLESS "THERE IS NEW DEVELOPMENT IN INTEREST OF ARAB CAUSE THAT WOULD MAKE US RECONSIDER OUR POSITION." POINTED OUT THAT CERTAIN OTHER ARAB STATES HAVE ALREADY DEFINED THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD SETTLEMENT PLANS AND CEASEFIRE, AND NOTED THAT IRAQI PARTICIPATION AT ALGIERS WOULD THUS ONLY SERVE TO HIGHLIGHT ARAB DIFFERENCES. HE DEPLORED FACT THAT CEASEFIRE HAD DESTROYED CHANCE FOR FORGING WIDER ARAB UNITY, UNITY NOT ONLY BETWEEN IRAQ AND SYRIA BUT ALSO AMONG OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES". 'ABD AL BAKI ADDED THAT SOVIET-IRAQI FRIENDSHIP REMAINED FIRM, BUT NOTED THAT WHILE SOVS ARE GOOD FRIENDS, "THEY NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR ARABS WHEN IT COMES TO ARAB CAUSES".

4. LEFTIST, PRO-ALGERIAN AL BALAGH (NOV 19) ACCUSED KISSINGER OF DANGLING PEACE CONFERENCE AS BAIT BEFORE ARABS TO CAUSE THEM NEGLECT GAINS WON IN OCTOBER WAR. SAID KISSINER'S REMARKS RE NEED FOR PATIENCE ARE INTENDED DISGUISE FACT US HAS NO INTENTION UNCLASSIFIED

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OF BRINGING ABOUT SETTLEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SC RESOLUTION 242. COMPLAINED THAT SOME ARABS ARE RELUCTANT GO VERY FAR IN CONFRONTING US, DESPITE FACT THAT "MOST DANGEROUS POLICY FOR US IS PATIENCE WITH AMERICA, WHILE BEST POLICY IS UNHESITATING CONFRONTATION". IN SEPARATE ARTICLES ON UPCOMING ALGIERS SUMMIT, BALAGH STRESSED ITS IMPORTANCE FOR "FUTURE OF EVERY ARAB COUNTRY" AND VOICED HOPE ARABS WOULD NOT EMERGE FROM IT "LESS RADICAL AND LESS ATTACHED TO PALESTINIAN CAUSE". SAID ALGERIAN GOVT WOULD ADHERE

TO ITS KNOWN POSITIONS RE NECESSITY OF CONTINUING STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL, MAINTAINING ARAB SOLIDARITY, AND SUPPORTING FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT, "FATAH IN PARTICULAR".

5. AD DUSTOUR, COMMENTING ON FEDAYEEN ATTITUDE TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE, CLAIMED FEDAYEEN LEADERS DOUBT US AND ISRAEL WILL EVER AGREE TO SUCH IDEA. SAID US AND SOV OFFICIALS HAVE REACHED NO AGREEMENT ON FUTURE OF WEST BANK, GAZA, JERUSALEM OR PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, AND THAT PROPOSALS FOR PALESTINIAN STATE ARE BEING PUT FORWARD PURELY IN ORDER SET FEDAYEEN ARGUING AMONG THEMSELVES,

GAIN TIME FOR ISRAEL, AND "LEAVE ARABS IN A MESS". URGED FEDAYEEN LEADERS REJECT CONCEPT OF PALESTINIAN STATE, PROPOSAL THAT "IS IMPOSSIBLE AND WILL NEVER BE IMPLEMENTED".
BUFFUM

NOTE BY OCT: BEIRUT 13398 NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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